

Message Text

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMANN FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: SHUM, HA, US
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENT

REF: STATE 306915

1. IN RESPONSE TO PARA 1 REFTL, I HAVE FOLLOWING COMMENTS
ON UNCLASSIFIED VERSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON HAITI
WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE GIVEN CONGRESSMAN FRASER THIS WEEK.
I REQUEST THAT REPORT NOT RPT NOT BE PASSED ON TO CONGRESSMAN
BEFORE THESE COMMENTS ARE WEIGHED IN DEPARTMENT.

2. SECTION I A, POLITICAL SITUATION, SECOND PARAGRAPH,
SUGGEST PHRASE, "DUE TO DUVALIER'S OWN AUTHORITARIAN
NATURE..." BE CHANGED TO "AUTHORITARIAN STYLE OF RULE...".
PRESENT LANGUAGE IS GRATUITOUSLY AD HOMINEM. MANY HAITIANS,
NO SUPPORTERS OF REGIME, WOULD QUESTION A PERSONAL
CHARACTERIZATION OF FRANCOIS DUVALIER IN AN OFFICIAL
USG DOCUMENT--JUST AS OTHERS WOULD FIND NO ADJECTIVES
SUFFICIENTLY CONDOMNATORY.

3. SECTION I C (2), OTHER FREEDOMS, FIFTH PARAGRAPH,
SUGGEST ADDING TO SENTENCE ON A PERIODICAL'S DENUNCIA-
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TION OF MILITIA UNIT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, THE
PHRASE, "AND THE GOVERNMENT, IN RESPONSE, ARRESTED AND
TRIED ALL THE ACCUSED MEN". POINT IS THAT PRESS
CRITICISM, IN THIS INSTANCE AS IN OTHERS, HAS SPURRED
REGIME TO REMEDIAL ACTION.

4. SECTION II (1), PROMOTION OF OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, POINT (D) SUMMARIZING POINTS MADE TO HAITIAN LEADERS, LAST SENTENCE, SUGGEST CHANGING STATEMENT THAT CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCES "MUST" BE MADE PUBLIC TO "SHOULD" BE MADE PUBLIC. PRESENT LANGUAGE IS PATERNALISTIC.

5. IN SAME SECTION, IN PARAGRAPH DESCRIBING USIS ACTIVITIES, SUGGEST DELETING SENTENCE, "ON THE AVERAGE, THE PRINCIPAL WRITERS, EDITORS, AND PUBLISHERS IN HAITI HAVE BEEN APPROACHED ON THIS SUBJECT ONCE A MONTH." SENTENCE IS EXAGGERATED, TOO OPERATIONAL, AND CARRIES FALSE IMPRESSION THAT GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE ON HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN PRIMARILY REACTIVE. UNDER JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER, POLICY OF RELATIVE TOLERANCE OR LAISSEZ-ALLER HAS PERMITTED VARIOUS SHADES OF CRITICAL MEDIA OPINION, PROVIDED THEY DEMONSTRATE CONSTRUCTIVE INTENT. MOREOVER, SENTENCE PINPOINTS OUR HAITIAN CONTACTS IN WAY THEY MIGHT FIND EMBARRASSING.

6. SECTION III. U.S. INTERESTS JUSTIFYING A SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. STRONGLY URGE DELETION OF SECOND PARAGRAPH IN ITS ENTIRETY. TO PINPOINT REGULAR ARMED FORCES AS THE SPECIAL OBJECTS OF OUR SOLICITUDE, AS DISTINCT FROM IRREGULAR FORCES, IS WHOLLY INAPPROPRIATE FOR AN UNCLASSIFIED DOCUMENT. MOREOVER, THIS PARAGRAPH IS NOT REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE GENERAL ARGUMENT ON U.S. INTERESTS MADE IN THIS SECTION, WHICH IS WELL SUMMARIZED IN FINAL PARAGRAPH. FINALLY, PARAGRAPH WOULD ONLY EMBARRASS OUR CONTACTS IN HAITIAN REGULAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARMED FORCES AND SET BACK OUR DISCREET AND GRADUALLY SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO GAIN CONFIDENCE OF KEY MILITARY LEADERS.

7. GENERAL COMMENTS ON PROCEDURE AND TACTICS. IN INTEREST OF PRESERVING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND OF PROTECTING MY ABILITY TO SPEAK FRANKLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS WITH KEY HAITIAN OFFICIALS, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF INITIAL CHANNEL FOR SHOWING REPORT TO GOH WERE TO BE VIA DEPARTMENT TO AMBASSADOR SALOMON, ACCOMPANIED BY APPROPRIATE BACKGROUND BRIEFING DESIGNED TO PLACE ACTION IN CONTEXT GENERAL CONGRESSAIONAL AND ADMINISTRATION ATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS FACTOR IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY. WE COULD THEN FOLLOW UP HERE. SALOMON IS PARTICULARLY WELL EQUIPPED TO INTERPRET ACTION TO DUVALIER IN TERMS WHICH WOULD ELICIT CONSTRUCTIVE RATHER THAN DEFIANT RESPONSE. GIVEN U.S. HISTORY OF INTERVENTION IN HAITI (1915-1934)

AND OUR CONFRONTATION WITH FRANCOIS DUVALIER THROUGHOUT
MOST OF 1960'S, OUR TACTICS ON DELICATE HUMAN RIGHTS
ISSUE SHOULD BE CHOSEN WITH CARE SO AS TO STRENGTHEN HAND
OF THOSE IN REGIME DISPOSED TO PURSUE A MORE
ENLIGHTENED COURSE. OTHERWISE, THE "DINOSAURS" WITHIN
THE PALACE MAY SEIZE OCCASION TO COUNTER-ATTACK.
ISHAM

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